

# **MINUTES - FINAL**

## **COLORADO METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE**

**Meeting September 28, 2007**

**Colorado Municipal League**

**1144 Sherman Street**

**10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Chair** – Attorney General John Suthers

### **Vice –Chairs:**

- *Treatment* – Janet Wood, Director, Behavioral Health Services, CDHS
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Interagency Prevention Systems, CDPHE
- *Law Enforcement* – Lori Moriarty, Commander, Thornton Police, Dept, Metro Drug Task Force

### **Task Force Members Present:**

Attorney General John Suthers; Lori Moriarty, Commander, Thornton Police Dept., Metro Drug Task Force; José Esquibel, CO Dept of Public Health & Environment; Dave Thomas, Colorado D.A.'s Council, Dr. Kathryn Wells, Denver Health; Dr. Nick Taylor, Taylor Behavioral Health; Janelle Krueger, CDE; Chief Gary Hamilton, Cripple Creek Police Department; Erin Goff, Colorado Municipal League; Stella Garza-Hicks, State Representative; Leslie Herod, Governor's Office; James, H. Hiatt, Judicial; Janet Rowland, Mesa County Commissioner; Debra Campeau, Office of Guardian ad Litem; Jeanne Smith, Director, Division of Criminal Justice; Janet Wood, Director, Behavioral Health Services; Chele Clark, CO Dept of Public Health & Environment

### **Guests:**

Brian Mattson, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children; Dana Wilks, Div.Of Probation Services, Eileen Kinney, Div.of Probation Services; Susan White, Dept of Corrections; Angie Palmer, Mesa County Meth Task Force; Amanda Haag, Freelance Science Journalist; Colleen Brisnehan, Co Dept of Public Health & Environment; Brian Hlavacek, Tri –County Health Dept; Aaron Sanchez, Denver Police Dept, Narcotics; Curielle Duffy, Delta County Meth Task Force; Tom Raynes, Attorney General's Office; Doran Wilson, Jefferson County Criminal Justice Planning; Claire Brooker, Jefferson County Criminal Justice Planning; Drew DeManz, Colorado Youth at Risk; Pat Sullivan, Cherry Creek Schools; Paulette Nagle, Communities for Drug Free Youth, White Bison, Inc;

### **Approval of Minutes from July 27, 2007**

Minutes were approved with changes.

### **Announcement from Task Force Members:**

#### *Attorney General Suthers*

National Association of Western Attorney General's Conference met in California in July. There were 14 U.S state participants, and 5 Mexican State Attorney Generals were invited to discuss common concerns:

1. American Attorney General's were concerned with meth production and trafficking as well as human trafficking
2. Mexican Attorney Generals's were concerned with the flow of weapons into Mexico.

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The group was invited to attend the Mexican Attorney General's meeting in Mexico. The security was very tight and the meeting was changed three times. Six states were represented from the United States. The current Mexican Attorney General is the head of security and there was a 3-hour discussion on methamphetamine. The Mexican government is taking this issue very seriously and in the next couple months you will not be able to purchase any cold medicine over the counter. There were also detailed discussions about money transfers between Mexico and US and about organized crimes in Mexico. The next meeting will be in Tucson, Arizona.

### **Announcement from Task Force Members**

*Janet Wood—*

The State of Colorado was awarded the Access to Recovery Grant in the amount of 13 million dollars over three years from federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The funds will provide vouchers for treatment and recovery services for adolescent and young adults to age 25. A portion of the funds must be used to treat persons addicted to methamphetamine. The governor's office is the primary recipient of the funds on behalf of the State of Colorado and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division will be authorized to manage the funds.

*Jeanne Smith—*

The Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) received a grant through the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) for \$29,300. This money, which will be available next month for training police in a Train the Trainer format. Also, CDPS received a MacArthur Grant, which were awarded to only four states. The amount of the MacArthur Grant is \$100,000 for 3 years for assessment for juveniles.

*Lori Moriarty*

The Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children received a check from the Daniel's Fund in the amount of \$200,000 for funding the joint work of the State Meth Task Force and Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Two full-time positions will be posted for hire, one for a coordinator and one for an assistant coordinator. There will also be a position for part-time office help. If you have any one in mind to help staff this, please let Lori know.

Also, Lori presented the State Meth Task Force Blueprint at the Prevention Leadership Council's 2007 Prevention Summit on September 11, 2007. The information was well received. She will be doing a presentation at the Winter School on Addictions and Behavioral Health in January 2008.

Also, the Meth Blueprint has been presented in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, Nebraska and Iowa, and has been well received. The basic premise and framework of the Blueprint is resonating with people in other states who are attempting to address meth issues in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

*Dr. Nick Taylor*

Received a grant from the Daniel's Fund for the Delta Project, an innovative model for treatment of people with addictions, such as methamphetamine. He also introduced Currila Duffy as the head of the Delta Meth Task Force.

*Debra Campeau*

Brian Mattson presented the Meth Blueprint in El Paso County and it was well received.

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### Update on SB03-318:

Eileen Kinney, Manager, Evaluation Unit and Dana Wilks, Management Analyst of the Division of Probation Services/Colorado Judicial Branch presented.

Status SB 03-318 Local Plans as of the end of September 2007:

Senate Bill 03-318 was written and passed by the General Assembly with the intention of decreasing the felony class level and resultant penalties (sentences) for use and possession of small amounts of illegal drugs. These decreases in penalties were expected to result in less costly sentences, producing a savings to the state's general fund. This savings would then be used to create a new drug offender treatment fund. In January 2007, the Judicial Department submitted a report demonstrating an estimated savings of at least \$2.2 million, as a result of the passage of SB 03-318, and then requested funding. This request was granted for FY 2008 in the amount of \$2.2 million.

CRS 16-11.5-102(7)(a) indicates that "each judicial district drug treatment board shall submit a plan, based upon the proposed allocation formula, to the Interagency Task Force on Treatment (ITFT), beginning September 1st of the first year funding is appropriated to the Judicial Department and September 1st of each year thereafter to be included in the Judicial Department's annual budget request." Subsequently, all judicial districts in the state have submitted plans to the ITFT, for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The following summarizes the details of the plans:

Districts were required to submit a description of the local problem to be addressed by the use of these funds. Almost one-half (10) of the districts indicated methamphetamine abuse is an increasing and/or significant problem in their district. Consequently, eight of the districts specified the funds would be used to address the problem directly, by targeting a methamphetamine abusing population or implementing a methamphetamine specific program, like the Matrix model.

Ten of the districts have indicated they will use some or all of their funds to work with Drug Court offenders in their jurisdiction.

The population targeted by the districts varied. Ten of the districts will use their funds primarily for their adult population, two districts will focus solely on juveniles, and the remaining districts will use the funds with a combination of adult and juvenile offenders.

Three of the districts will give priority to female substance abusers.

Twelve of the districts have targeted probationers for treatment; four districts have targeted all individuals, who are involved in the criminal justice system; four districts targeted pre-adjudicated or pre-convicted offenders; and two programs are targeting incarcerated offenders.

There were several types of treatment discussed in the plans. The majority (12) of districts will be using the funds to pay for a continuum of treatment services, ranging from education to long-term residential placement. Eight of the districts are using the funds primarily for specific levels of treatment. Of those eight districts, three will contract for weekly outpatient services, one district will contract for intensive outpatient, three districts will contract for residential

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treatment, and one will contract for detox services. The two remaining districts will be contracting for ancillary services defined in the offenders' substance abuse case plan.

Overall the districts indicated their goals are to reduce the prevalence of substance abuse by offenders, as well as reduce recidivism rates. Several of the rural districts are encouraged by the prospect of adding services they have been unable to secure in the past.

### **Discussion:**

Report has to be done based on savings to the state and mapping the work. What is taking place in the work being done across the state?

—This will be a perfect project for the new director that is being hired to move the Colorado Blueprint work forward. We will need to work with this to be able to measure the community response.

Another piece is in regard to the main focus of rural districts, which is to maintain a full continuum of service providers. The rural districts are getting very creative on how to provide services.

In regard to service quality, how do we know that the providers, ADAD licensed, are the best providers?

- The probation officers will be working with ADAD to assure that the best is being offered.
- The yardstick that is being used by the Delta Project will be helpful for this as well.

Some of this work can be documented using the Community Resource Assessment. How do we put this into a workable format?

—Evidence based practice is currently being worked on in regard to this work. Janet Wood is reviewing a handbook on this subject. If you have any ideas, you can pass them along to Janet.

What do we mean by an evidence-based process? How do we measure outcomes? Perhaps experts can be enlisted to review the process of what is being done and work with the outcomes and goals. Perhaps rather than focusing on assessing outcomes initially, we just document the logic and the evaluation from these groups?

### **Meth Lab Clean up – Colleen Brisnehan and Brian Hlavacek**

This will be one of the areas that we may need to address legislation. Why the concern over Meth Lab Contaminated Property? In contaminated properties there are meth residues, chemical residues vapors and waste disposal to contend with. The National Jewish Research took samples during a controlled cook and found vapor levels of phosphine, iodine and hydrogen chloride exceeded OSHA exposure levels. High levels of airborne meth were also detected. Samples from an inactive meth lab also found high concentrations of meth residues, chemical residues, vapors and waste disposal.

Recently there seems to be a trend to go back to the old ways of making meth using the P2P process. Mercury and lead are by products of this method. Mercury is the bigger of the concerns.

Denver is the only one so far to identify the use of the P2P process.

Question: Can a fact sheet be put together to go out to the police?

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—Colleen is working with her chemist to create a fact sheet. This information is very important to take back to each of our areas. The only way to identify this is if the police identify this. Also remember volunteer fire dept and emergency response teams.

In 2004 House Bill 04-1182 was passed and in 2005 Senate Bill 05-217 amended the original statute.

House Bill 04-1182 does not do the following:

- ◇ establish a cleanup oversight program
- ◇ establish a contractor oversight or certification program
- ◇ address personal property not owned by the real property owner or
- ◇ define “governing body”

The Colorado Board of Health adopted regulations for the cleanup of meth labs in January 2005. The regulations became effective on March 30, 2005.

In 2006 Senate Bill 06-002 was created to require disclosure of former meth labs to buyers of properties.

There are still a number of issues that still need to be addressed. For example, there are no training requirements for clean up on a state level. There is no central place for tracking meth lab locations.

The state is not the controller of this information, not sure where the data is currently held. The majority of the labs are found by other ways than by law enforcement. Tracking of meth lab cleanup is also not done statewide. The state has no way to know the cleanup status of sites. Vehicles initially fall under police control. Who has controlled over the vehicle to ensure that it is cleaned up?

Another issue that has recently come to light is the effects of meth labs on animals. Vets are coming forth asking about Meth dogs, they are concerned about handling dogs exposed to meth labs.

Based on Tri-County Health’s experience, 25% of the time, the post-cleanup samples fail and more cleanup is needed.

Preliminary assessment might run \$1,500 – \$2,000 dollars

Clean-up cost could run \$10,000 – 30,000 and higher. It depends on the amount of clean up

Based on the number of labs that have been discovered in Colorado, and the estimate that law enforcement finds only 10% of the meth labs in existence, there are an estimated 10,000 labs in the state of Colorado that people don’t even know about.

### **Discussion:**

The decreased market value of a meth house takes its toll on the homeowner and the neighborhood.

What are the health effects if the house is not cleaned?

—Long-term effects are still being researched.

—It is very hard to document some of this due to the nature of the sickness: earaches, headaches, etc.

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Denver's Environmental Health budget cutbacks will affect the clean up efforts in Denver. There will be a meth lab cleanup program on paper, but with no money or staff there will be no clean-up activities. Normally, the police would notify the health dept and the health department would do the clean up. In 2008, the Denver Police Department will probably be the one responsible for cleaning up as best as they can. Currently the Denver Police Department does not have the training or protocols to do this. The legislation does not have any provisions for oversight.

Is there a statute that allows for prosecution for not cleaning up a house that is a former meth lab?  
—The challenge is the burden of proof.

As to the Denver situation, perhaps a letter of concern from AG Suthers could be helpful. Vice Chair Esquibel and Colleen Brisnehan can draft the letter for review and signature.

Of course, there is a fiscal impact in regard to clean-up. An alternative to the complete cut in the budget would be a cut back in the services and creating a fee for the service. The state is willing to work with Denver in thinking about these kinds of alternatives. There are some items that can be streamlined to cut the budget but not make the project go away. The state meth task force may be able to help with this. Gene Cook would be the contact with the City of Denver who would know the budget amount in the past.

It is proposed to have a formal request from the State Meth Task Force to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on any proposed changes to legislation that the State Meth Task Force could help support.

The letter to the Mayor of the City of Denver will go out first, since the issues related to the statute will be more of a long-term process.

We would prefer not to do something through the legislation. Colleen will work with things through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Board of Health and get back to the Task Force.

### **Community Resource Assessment Committee Vice Chair Moriarty**

We are looking at ways to identify what is happening across the state to address meth issues. We would like to foster community-wide use of a community resource assessment tool. This tool needs to be refined. Janet Rowland used the tool and reported out on some refinements.

The key is "what are the partnerships within your community?" Any program that has done a grant process should be able to do the CRA.

Colorado wants to identify what is happening in the state, this CRA is the logic model that we would like to use this to track this. This tool has been shared with a few other states and it is being seen as a useful tool for them as well. We would like to see as many other states using the same tool as well.

Communities will start to fill this out and then there will need to be for a review process. What does this process look like and what feedback are we going to give back? This tool would be the first step to create the knowledge base as part of the blueprint for a community to use.

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What do we need to put in place a way to enlist communities in completing the CRA? What are the criteria for who should complete the CRA? We still need to do some thinking about these questions.

The next steps would be to work on getting information out to local communities about the CRA and its purpose, create a cover sheet to explain the intent and use of the CRA, create a check sheet and track the flow of CRAs coming in. The new coordinator will be able to take the lead on this and create a guidebook to help others evaluate the CRAs and establish the review process. We will work to get the CRA on-line to be completed electronically and to feed into a database.

Other steps to consider include:

- Providing a clear explanation of the benefit for completing the CRA
- Get the CRA on-line as soon as possible so that we can compile the knowledge base on a website.
- Creating white papers from this whole process
- Perhaps a carrot for communities to complete the CRA is a letter of endorsement in addition to informing others of better practices.
- Hopefully, CRA participants will see themselves as part of a bigger whole and the partnerships that they may create doing this.

### **Next Steps**

Vice Chair Moriarty will be posting the two job positions and will work with the Vice-Chairs on conducting the interviews. If you would like to be part of the interview process, contact Vice-Chair Moriarty. This is going to be a fast tracked process.

The Annual Report of the Meth Task Force is due January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Vice Chairs will bring an outline and possible first draft to the November meeting. Send Vice Chair Esquibel an email if you want to assist in the preparation of the report.

Adjournment at 1:00pm.

Next meetings are:

- November 30, 2007, 10:00am – 1:00pm
- January 25, 2008, 10:00am – 1:00pm
- March 28, 2008, 10:00am – 1:00pm